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The Negro Farmer and Messenger

Published Bi-Weekly in the Interest of the Home, Farm and Garden; especially devoted to the Interest of Negro Land Owners and Tenant Farmers

and Those Who Employ Negro Labor. The Only Negro Farm Newspaper in the World to be Circulated Among 2,000,000 Black Farmers.

Vol. 3 TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE, ALA., OCTOBER 21, 1916 No. 21

A Million Bales of Cotton For 1917

By J. A. Wade, Commissioner of Agriculture and Industries of Alabama

It will take a million bales of cotton per year to keep Alabama in normal financial condition. This amount can be grown in excess of diversified crops sufficient to produce a living at home, and in spite of the boll weevil. Alabama farmers have seen the worst of it this year. With boll weevils all over the State, as bad as they will ever be and the worst July weather ever known, conditions will improve as fovorable seasons return. Help us make a million bales of cotton next year and help yourselves to enjoy prosperity once more. How?

1—Begin at once to destroy the cotton stalks by plowing them under completely; cutting and burning them or grazing them closely with cattle just as soon as you can get the cotton picked. Plowing them under with a two-horse plow is best, because it destroys the weevils, prevents them from multiplying until frost, adds the stalks as a fertilizer to the soil, forces the weevil to migrate or to survive a longer period of starvation. Plowing under destroys grass and weeds before the seed ripens, prepares the soil in the fall, makes it produce better and is easier to cultivate. It's all gain, if you do it promptly and well. Will you do it?

2—Reduce your crop to six or eight acres to the plow and make the rows one foot wider than you expect the cotton to grow in height.

3—Prepare a well pulverized seed bed and plant as early as season will permit.

4—Plant pure seed of early varieties like Triumph and Cleveland for North Alabama; Toole, King and Simpkin for South Alabama.

5—Fertilize a little heavier and put part of the fertilizer in with the seed to start the crop quickly. If only two hundred pounds of fertilizer is used per acre, apply all with the seed.

6—Keep cotton off of damp rich land that makes too much weed, as moisture, shade, and tender growth is the weevil's ideal place.

7—Pick the weevils out of the buds of the plants a week before squares begin to form.

8—Pick up and burn the infested squares the same week that the first blooms occur.

9—Cultivate shallow and once a week until August or later.

10—Successful cotton culture is now a matter of the man, his intelligence, determination and ability to apply his efforts at the time which will accomplish the greatest results.

How to Cure a Sick Soil

By F. H. Cardozo,

Director of Agriculture, Florida Agricultural and Mechanical College, Tallahassee, Florida

The editor has asked me to treat this subject for the readers of our paper, but I would much rather be literally in the midst of a good crowd of bona-fide farmers, talking this matter over with them, taking as much time as desired, and allowing the "question box" full sway.

As it is, I have got to give you only the bare essentials in such a large topic, and beg you to write me here, or else to your Experiment Stations at Tuskegee and Auburn, Alabama, for any additional information desired. By the way, the experts at these two Agricultural Stations just mentioned are your best friends, if you only knew it, my good farmer readers; also those that are near-farmers.

In order to get down to "brass tacks," I shall treat briefly and concisely the principal troubles in soils of whatever character or formation that may be causing the farmer considerable loss, as to time, labor, other expenses, poor yield, etc.

1—A sick soil most of the time means a sick man in charge of it. Cure that inner sick man which dwells in the upper story, by taking a trip to the Farmers' Institute nearby, ask questions of the best speakers. Visit some good farmers who have proven to you that they can and do control a soil which "wants" to get sick. Two heads are better than one. Read all you can get on soils, and send off for what you cannot get, on that same subject. Then practice what the other fellow says, a little bit. Don't know it all. That is the trouble with too many of our farmers, even the young ones.

2—Soils become sick from bad washes. I lived seven years in Alabama; have done much terracing, ditching and repairing of washes there. Bad washes cause starvation, and starvation causes sickness, as you know. If pine tops, trash from the forest, moss from the trees, cane bagasse, or such materials be lacking, then get some crocus sacks and fill with earth; lay these bags across the wash, drive stakes behind them, and along with a little horse sense, the wash across your land will soon stop, and the soil will "pick up" again.

3—Weed pests can "poison" land if they stay there long enough. I refer mostly to the annual weeds; but these can easily be stopped in three years or less by mowing down before or in the flower stage, not later. Perennial weeds must either be dug out, plowed out and harrowed in a hot sun, or swamp with a heavy crop of velvet beans or peas, planting them in early April.

4—Deep plowing may be what the sick land needs. Plow small plots of land twice, always, before planting seed, if you possibly can. Such a "trick" saves you fertilizer. Try it not once, but thrice. Don't use a Boy Dixie plow in first plowing as some do, as that mostly means a Boy Dixie horse to pull it, and that means later nothing but a hard pan "soil," only fit to build a house on, not a crop. Using a good steel beam plow with two mules, turning under the broom sedge, weeds and grass, instead of lazily burning it off first, will save a doctor's bill in this sick soil of ours. The soil needs hay in the paunch, the same as we need vegetables and corn bread in our stomachs to give our organs something to work on.

5—Harrowing ought to follow plowing, especially if plowing was done when too wet. There are many makes of single and double harrows, some better suited to one kind of soil than another. But much soil sickness is due to the lack of harrowing, and later, to the lack of shallow cultivation. If you put your sick soil through a thorough harrowing, much is done then, to admit sunlight; warmth; reduce size of clods; make the food in the clods more available to the feeding roots; give better ventilation to the soil; dry off surplus water; admit more fresh air to soil; allow crops to take deeper and wider root growth; better able to hold and retain the desirable soil moisture, and gives better and finer texture, which is the whole thing in a nutshell.

6—Too much commercial fertilizer will make a soil sick. If your soil is thin, stop using sack fertilizers and supplement your barn manures with leaves and pine needles from the woods. Do not worry about pine needles injuring the land. It is not so. All we want such material to do, is to hold the land together, to give it body, and when it finally decays, we have humus in the soil giving it a richer color, as well as holding more rainfall, and getting the soil in such good fix as to warrant expensive commercial fertilizers later.

7—Lime your soil, if it is acid. Lime is good, even if not acid. Fine agricultural lime in Florida sells for $2.25 per ton, with freight extra, at 35 cents per ton. While potash and other fertilizers are now so expensive, our farmers can successfully use at least 1,000 pounds of this comparatively cheap agricultural lime to the acre, and more if your par-

ticular soil demands it. Apply it especially on red clays and any land recently drained of its surplus water, whether hillside or bottom.

8—Don't over-crop, unless you do so with a legume. Land has its limit in crop production, the same as a fruit tree. Exhaustion of land spells ruin. Avoid this evil by planting more such crops as peas, clovers, beans and peanuts. A soil gets tired of the same crop every year, and consequently shows enough sickness to cause a very poor crop.

9—Rotation. This word covers a multitude of soil sins. It is your next best friend in all agriculture. Try it even on the boll weevil. It will prevent the disgraceful frequent occurrences of under-cropping, the enemy of the pocket-book. Rotation of crops prevents sickness in large measure in any soil. It even helps to control cotton wilt, or "black root," of cotton and if that disease can be controlled by such simple means (outside of using a wilt-proof variety of cotton), by all means try rotation in everything you plant on the entire farm.

10—There are other ways of curing a sick soil, outside of the above. Space will not allow further explanation of methods, practiced by the best farmers of the world. But a careful study of your own special, peculiar soil is what is needed.

Don't try to do it all by yourself, it makes no difference how long you have been farming. Make up your mind to call in the soil doctor, and use his prescription gladly.

Government to Open Fight Against Abortion in Cattle

The Bureau of Animal Industry, U. S. Department of Agriculture will inaugurate its campaign to lessen contagious abortion in beef and dairy cattle with a special exhibit at the National Dairy Show which opens in Springfield, Mass., on October 12th.

This animal disease, which it is estimated is costing cattle owners $20,000,000 a year in dead calves and lowered milk production, the Government veterinarians say, is second in importance only to tuberculosis in cattle, and rapidly is coming to the front as the most costly and serious disease which the dairy industry in the United States has to combat. Reports from many sections indicate that the disease is spreading rapidly to all parts of the county. Congress at its last session recognized the seriousness of the disease by appropriating $50,000 to be used by the Department in studying the scourge and developing methods for its control.

Abortion in cattle, which prevents the bearing of live calves and frequently causes cows to become sterile and remain dry, is caused by the Bacillus abortus. This bacillus is carried from animal to animal and from herd to herd by infected bulls and cows and may be spread in herds by infected feed and water, or the discharges of aborting animals. The disease is controllable by isolation and antiseptic treatment of infected animals and by disinfection and sanitation of barns and cattle lots. The Department veterinarians, however, place the greatest emphasis on preventive measures. Proper disinfection of bulls and cows will prevent its spread, and persistent antiseptic treatment of aborting cows will overcome sterility and enable the cows to produce healthy calves. The Government specialists, however, know of no internal drugs that will effect quick and positive cures and state that serum treatment as yet is in an experimental stage. The exhibit at Springfield, therefore, will be devoted entirely to illustrating the simple and inexpensive preventive and control measures which the Government pathologists have found effective.

A Helpful Meeting Held at the Court House at Dothan, Alabama

Many Whites Present and Spoke

One of the most interesting and helpful meetings ever held in Houston County, convened in the court house at Dothan, Alabama, the 7th of October. Almost every community was represented and exhibits of a high class were brought from all sections of the county.

The various members of the Girls' Canning Clubs reported having put up more than 10,000 cans of fruits and vegetables. Twenty-five Home Makers Clubs representing 400 members, reported that their communities had seen to it that every home was made perfectly clean and sanitary and that flowers had been planted in every yard, and gardens had been built where formerly none existed. The Pig Clubs showed signs of activity and the whole atmosphere seemed filled with the spirit of "helping Alabama feed herself."

The prominent white speakers present were Professor J. M. Odom, County Superintendent of Education, Professor J. W. Hodges, Supt. of Dothan Public Schools, Professor Demmick,

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Inspector of City Schools of Birmingham, Professor H. J. Stringfellow of Webb, Alabama; Professor B. Z. Hamrick, Ashford, Alabama, and Dr. Williams, a prominent physician of Dothan, Alabama.

Each of the above mentioned speakers spoke in a very encouraging way and in the very highest terms of the work done by Mrs. Hattie R. Smith, rural school Supervisor of that county.

Professor W. M. Rakestraw, Negro Conference Agent of Tuskegee Institute, Alabama, was present and spoke in a very happy vein. His advice was very wholesome and was thoroughly appreciated by all present. The address dwelt, for the most part, on the importance of staying on the farm and living at home. Every one returned to his home fully determined to exert greater efforts to improve their home and schools and to develop a healthier and more serviceable rural life.

Tick Ticks Number One

The Texas-fever cattle tick lays from 3,000 to 5,000 eggs a year.

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For further information write to Clinton J. Calloway, Manager, Tuskegee Institute, Alabama; or
A. A. Chandler, Baldwin Farms, Route 1, Milstead, Alabama.

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The Negro Farmer and Messenger

VERNON W. BARNETT____*Editor and Business Mgr.*

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SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21, 1916

Think, Plan, Work and Hope Vitally Essential to Success On the Farm

Prosperity and happiness are not accidental. They come as a result of obeying certain fixed laws. "Whatsoever a man soweth that shall he also reap." The laws of nature are so carefully legislated and so rigidly enforced that we never break one of them but that we must pay the penalty. We suffer in proportion to the degree of the violation. And too, real, substantial success comes largely through one's individual efforts and sacrifices. No man can succeed for me. I must brave the storm for myself and that's life. Otherwise, human existence would be void of all interest. For what is real success after all but a measurement of difficulties overcome?

The world today, more than ever, is insisting on "a delivery of the goods," and he who can't measure up to this requirement, must give place to him who can. Eloquent words are no satisfactory substitute for bread when the man is hungry. Sitting around the fireplace with a long face and weeping eyes lamenting the fact that the weevil is here, will not feed, clothe and educate the children. Now there are certain indispensable requisites to success on the farm as in all other business. Possess them and success is assured; and without them failure is inevitable. What are they?

Thinking

One of the prime essentials in the performance of anything worth while, is the matter of thinking. It is the very key that unlocks the most intricate problems of life and places one upon a safe and sound foundation of usefulness. Nine-tenths of all the failures, whether upon the farm or elsewhere, may be traced directly to a lack of systematic thinking. For a number of years many of our farmers have worked pretty earnestly with their hands and have seriously neglected the matter of putting brains into the soil and the result was a complete failure.

If I could, I would drive home to every farmer the important fact that shooting promiscuously in the air is a thing of the past and if we would get profit as well as pleasure out of farm life, we must think as we work. Mr. Carter Washington, a colored man of Sunshine, Hale County, Alabama, says that it was by putting brains into his farm that he was able to pay for 300 acres of the most fertile land and bank several thousand dollars. Visit this man's home and you will see thought in the poultry yard, in the piggery, in the barn yard and everywhere about the place. The colored men who are crying panic all over the Southland today and are moving from the farms into the large cities of the North and East and West, are, for the most part, among that class that failed to think.

The food elements so vitally necessary to the life and growth of the plant are so snugly hidden in the soil that they will not give up their hiding place to the sluggard — to the thoughtless. It is only through the touch of the skillful hand, directed by an active mind, will farm life take on a new meaning.

Planning

The importance of thinking suggests the next important step—planning. He who fails to plan his work is simply guessing and is as likely to fail as to succeed. I wonder how many of you, dear readers, have your farms all well planned for the new year. The thoughtful farmer knows now how much land he will plant in oats, corn, peas, beans, potatoes and sugar cane. He knows how many hogs he must kill next winter in order to avoid begging the merchant for "a little piece of meat" and is therefore pushing his hogs as rapidly as possible. He has not only planned how much to plant but when, how and where to plant. By planning he gets his land well broken before the winter rains set in. The farmer I have in mind has also planned to cut out so much commercial fertilizer; he is now penning his cattle, hauling leaves and building his compost heap in order to enrich that poor spot on his farm. He has also decided to cut out the new tool bill, for already the toolhouse has been built and all of the farm tools have been carefully stored away and locked up so that when the time comes for them, he knows just where to put his hand on them.

Work

But "faith without works is dead being alone." He who never operates his plans will fail as though he hadn't planned. The farm is no place for a lazy man. The farmer who allows the sun to rise and find him still in bed may reasonably expect to have hungry babes and restless mothers. One of the best mottoes for any man, whatever his business, is to get up and hustle. Work, systematically done, never hurts any one, but laziness almost invariably brings disappointment, grief—and for the most part, poverty. Work is the power behind the throne. It is religion itself. It cures when all else fails. He who works while others whine will pay his debts at harvest time.

Be Hopeful

We are as strong as we believe ourselves to be. He who doubts his ability to accomplish a noble purpose, has failed already. Our success is largely proportional to our ambition, our energy, our determination, our faith. There is nothing promised to him who gives up. Don't give up because the dreadful floods and greedy weevils destroyed your crop this year. Nerve up—think, plan, work and hope for better things next year. Let's profit by our mistakes and make stepping stones of our failures.

Alabama Must Feed Herself

By T. M. Campbell,
District Agent,
Tuskegee Institute, Alabama.

October 13, 1916.

To the keepers of the soil:

The County Fair just as truly as the County School is an educational institution. It is more widely an educational institution, because it does not confine its instruction to the young, who are preparing for a life work, but extends it to those of all ages who are engaged busily in the work they have chosen.

It is, prehaps, more pleasantly educational because it combines a zest of amusements, even of excitement. Our County Fair, unlike a county school, is not intensive, but extensive; teaching by suggestion, inspiration of attained results, and by enterchanging of ideas.

The Macon County Fair is, to be sure, a great show, a great amusement proposition. That is one of its features, but those who think of it as only a place of amusement are missing the biggest side of it. Every man who grows crops and feeds live stock; every woman who has to care for a farm-house; every boy who has a pig and a plot of corn; every girl who has chickens and tomatoes; every one of these has its educational side, and should not fail to claim the benefits that it has to confer.

The Fair will begin October 31st, and close November 3rd. Every one is expected to be there.

Resolutions Adopted By Macon County Teachers' Institute

We, the Committee on Resolutions for the Macon County Teachers' Institute, offer the following:

First: We thank the Tuskegee Institute most sincerely for opening her doors to the teachers and for the unstinted hospitality that has been given us by the entire institution.

Second: We are grateful to Dr. R. R. Moton, Mrs. Booker T. Washington, Dr. G. L. Imes and others for their words of cheer and inspiration.

Third: We highly appreciate the interest that Superintendent W. B. Riley has manifested in us.

Fourth: We especially commend the work of our conductors, Mr. Trenholm and Miss Garrett, for the untiring efforts they have put forth to make the meeting a success.

We shall strive to carry out the helpful suggestions that they have given us.

Fifth: We also gained much inspiration and encouragement from a visit to the Children's House, and thank the entire Faculty for the service they rendered us.

Be it Resolved: That as teachers we give our most sympathetic and unselfish co-operation to Superintendent Riley, the Tuskegee Institute and all others who are working for the advancement of our schools and race.

Be it further resolved that a copy of these resolutions be sent to The Negro Farmer and Messenger.

Respectfully submitted,

Miss B. E. Goodenough.
Mr. J. A. Barney.
D. K. McMillan.

News From Blakely, Georgia

Editor of NEGRO FARMER AND MESSENGER:

We have recently had a visit from Prof. W. M. Rakestraw which has been very helpful indeed. He spoke on October 1st to a very appreciative audience on the importance of raising more foodstuffs and improving our homes and schools.

It may interest the readers of your paper to know that under the wise leadership of Professor L. E. Cotton, principal of our school, we have made a fairly good crop on our school farm. We made 665 pounds of lint cotton, 65 bushels of corn, one and one-half tons of hay, one ton of velvet beans, $5. worth of oats and one-half ton of peas and a few peanuts. We have now planted one-quarter of an acre of onions and have the promise of a market for them. Our school farm this year consisted of five acres and in round numbers will make us $210.00 Prof. Cotton says he must double that amount this year and wishes some advice from the good farmers of Macon County, Alabama, as to how to accomplish this aim. This school farm idea is having a far-reaching effect in giving a deeper meaning to rural life.

An Industrious Minister

Rev. D. W. Pruett, of Blakely, Georgia, is an industrious minister. He owns 126 acres of land, and in spite of the boll weevil and rains during the summer, he made seven bales of cotton with his two plows. He will make 85 gallons of syrup, 150 bushels of ground peas, and 220 bushels of corn; he also has 30 head of hogs.

Rev. Pruett has subscribed for THE NEGRO FARMER AND MESSENGER; he tries to live what he preaches to the people.

Waste Land Costs Money

Non-productive Acres Mean Dead Capital and a Loss to the Farmer

Every acre of nonproducing tillable land should be put to work or sold, says a new publication of the United States Department of Agriculture, Farmers' Bulletin 745. Many farmers would make more money if their business were larger, but the size of a farm, from a financial standpoint, is measured not by the number of acres embraced in it but by the number that are producing crops, pasturing animals economically, or supporting a growth of marketable forest products. Non-productive acres are loafer acres, and the money tied up in them is dead capital.

On every farm, however, there are certain areas necessarily devoted to non-productive purposes. Fences, ditches, lanes, and building lots produce nothing themselves, but they are frequently essential to production on the rest of the farm. Nevertheless, they may occupy in the aggregate a considerable percentage of the available land. It is a part of efficient farm management to see to it that this percentage is no higher than necessary.

In this connection, some interesting figures are given by the bulletin already mentioned in regard to the amount of land occupied by fences of different kinds. It takes, for instance, only 209 rods of untrimmed hedge and only 214 rods of zigzag rail or worm fence to waste an acre of what might be productive land. For the same expenditure of land one

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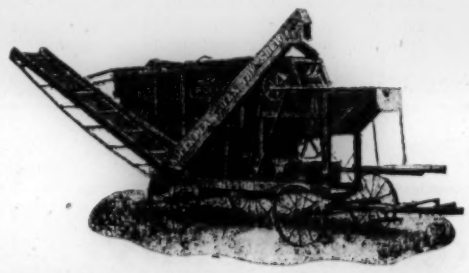

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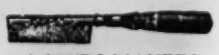

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can run 459 rods of woven wire and 473 rods of barbed wire. Other considerations, of course, may make it desirable to use the hedge or the worm fence, but the waste involved is a factor that should not be overlooked.

Similarly, farm lanes often may be eliminated by a simple re-arrangement of fields; headlands, or turning spaces at the edges of fields avoided; and the farmstead itself, the group of farm buildings with their lots and yards, the garden and the orchard made compact. In the case of the farmstead, however, considerations of health and attractiveness may well justify a slight sacrifice of economy.

Profits Increased On The Farm

By M. A. R. Kelley, Missouri College of Agriculture

The harvest is over. Every machine and implement which is not in use should be under cover. The fall rains plant the seeds of rust, which are harvested by the manufacturers of farm machinery.

The average life of farm machinery in this country is short, entirely too short, and for years has caused an enormous annual loss to the farmers, and large profits for the manufacturer. The best machinery will wear out in time, but the life of any implement depends primarily upon the care it has received and the facility and ability of the farmer to do repair work.

The implements used on the farm represent a large investment, and this investment increases yearly. Every year that can be added to their life represents profit. This is the age of the "iron horse", and unless we take care of our machinery the annual loss is going to increase enormously.

Every farmer should study his machine and see where he can increase its efficiency. Oil is cheaper than repairs and new tools, and when properly used will reduce the friction and increase the life of the machine.

If the binder has not already been housed, it should be done as soon as possible. During a trip across the State last winter, the writer counted seven binders out in the field within a radius of fifty miles, and some of them were new machines. Under such treatment a binder will not last more than three years. Then the total yearly loss on these machines, whose cost was about $900, would amount to $300. This is more than the yearly profit on some farms. With proper care the same machines could have been made to last ten or fifteen years.

"A high polish on the moldboard is of far more value than that acquired in high society." When you are through with your plow this fall cover the moldboard with any heavy grease that will keep the air away from it and put it away. This will keep the plow from rusting and can be easily removed. The same treatment to the disc harrow and cultivator shovels will protect them.

The farm machinery is only used for a short period, but must work continuously when being used. Hence it must be in good running order and properly adjusted.

When buying a new machine keep in mind these four words: Simplicity, Reliability, Durability and Accessibility. Then if the machine is given proper care, long life and greater profits are insured. Use plenty of oil and grease.

Little Gardens

Helpful Suggestions as to How to Make the Home and Community More Beautiful

1—Form a garden club in your community to stimulate interest. Results can be obtained by co-operation, which can never be achieved by individuals.

2—Community flower shows, as well as flower and plant exchanges will develop the latent taste for growing things which is in nearly all of us, while the plants which grow best in each district may be made a specialty in that place, and used lavishly in decoration for fairs, church socials, etc.

3—Roadside tree planting.—Where there are now long barren stretches of road, why not plant trees, and thus beautify the highways and refresh the users of them?

4—Ask the State forester to recommend trees for roadside planting. The following are suggested: pin oaks, lindens, sugar maples, red maples.

5—Co-operative buying of plants and bulbs is as economical as the wholesale purchasing of food products, and equally satisfactory. Great reductions are made in "wholesale order" buying, and purchase money might well be pooled, and plants bought by the thousand instead of by the dozens.

6—Hardy perennials and flowering trees and shrubs should be much more generally planted. There are many of these, which might be known in every locality instead of a few only.

7—The rural schoolhouse should be considered as a community responsibility. Each schoolhouse should have a school garden, and each child an individual plot in it. Make a demonstration of good planting around the base of the schoolhouse and the boundaries of the school yard. For this purpose use vines, shrubs, flowering trees and perennials. The country churchyard can be made beautiful in the same way. Plant trees in the graveyard, but not weeping trees. Trees give a sense of stability and peace.—*Progressive Farmer.*

Feed Your Chickens Sour Milk

H. L. Kempster, Missouri Agricultural Experiment Station

Sour milk should not be left out of the feed of growing or laying fowls, winter or summer, if it can be secured at any reasonable cost. It is usually much cheaper and easier to get on the farm than beef scraps or any other substitute and no common substitute except butter milk will give as good results.

Sour milk for egg-production was given a very careful test at the Missouri Agricultural Experiment Station for a year recently when three 25 bird pens of White Leghorn pullets were fed in almost exactly the same way except that one pen received sour milk, another beef scraps, and the third no meat or animal food whatever. From the sour milk pen the station got 3,225 eggs at a profit of $28.26; from the beef scrap pen, 2,668 at a profit of $19.78; and from the no-meat pen, 1,373 eggs at a loss of $1.00 on the pen for the year.

On many farms the no-meat pen would not have been regarded as losing money because the chickens live mainly on waste grain about the barn lot but on these farms the profits would be so much greater if butter-milk or sour milk could be fed that a large possible profit is being lost if the chickens get only the grain and grass they can pick up. They may pick up insects enough to keep them from being on an absolutely no-meat ration but a part of the farm business that can return an average of $122 a farm on the thousands of Missouri farms should be systematically fed on the right kind of food.

During the experiment only ordinary good poultry-feeding methods were followed. A little scratch feed was sprinkled in the straw litter deep enough to make the chickens take exercise in getting it. Water was given in clean vessels and a pan of sour milk kept in the sour milk pen. At noon, dry mash was measured into the trough and green feed was often given at the same time, especially during the winter. Two or three times a week the fowls were made to eat more of the mash by mixing the dry mash with some liquid to make a wet mash which was fed at the rate of a handful for every four birds.

At night, scratch feed was given again and the birds were given all they would eat to send them to roost with full crops. This method of feeding keeps the hens busy all day, gives them good appetites, and supplies all the feed they will use. They should eat about twice as much grain or scratch feed as mash.

These Missouri results with White Leghorns are exactly in harmony with those secured elsewhere with fowls of various other breeds except that in some other cases the milk-fed chickens have laid about four times as many eggs as those fed no meat instead of only two or three times as many as in the case of those at the Missouri Agricultural Experiment Station.

A Community Fair at Inverness

By W. E. McGowan

The Farmers' Conferences of three communities—Mascotte, Pleasant Grove and Post Oak, Bullock County, Alabama, recently held a community Fair and thoroughly demonstrated that the colored people in this section know how to live in spite of the boll weevil. There were on exhibition 15 hams and 25 sides of meat killed last fall, as well as excellent needle work and canned fruits and vegetables. A cabbage weighing 14 pounds and melons weighing 50 pounds attracted considerable comment. Several present reported having on hand a large quantity of old corn and velvet beans.

We had a speaking contest on "The Beauty of Farm Life," and the first, second and third prizes were won by Miss Hattie Brewer, Miss Acester McGowan and Miss Jennie Boswell.

This Fair resulted in great enthusiasm and everybody left in the hope not only to make this an annual affair, but fully determined to exert greater efforts to produce more foodstuffs in the future than formerly.

We were favored by several good, practical speeches from persons of Birmingham, Girard, as well as home talent.

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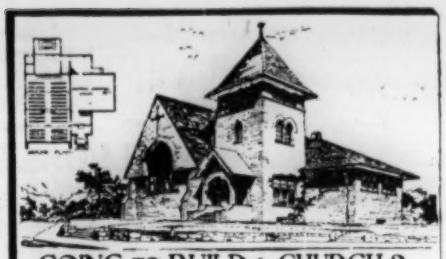

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